

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
MD INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES

Inventory No. M-35-105

1. Name of Property

historic name Hartwell-Laird House common/other
name _____

2. Location

street & number 7400 Meadow Lane Not for publication X
city or town Chevy Chase vicinity X state Maryland code MD
county Montgomery code MO zip code 20815

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

N/A

4. National Park Service Certification

N/A

5. Classification

Ownership of Property (Check all that apply)

- ☒ private
☐ public-local
☐ public-State
☐ public-Federal

Category of Property (Check only one box)

- ☒ building(s)
☐ district
☐ site
☐ structure
☐ object

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing Noncontributing

<u>2</u>	_____	buildings
_____	_____	sites
_____	_____	structures
_____	_____	objects
_____	_____	Total

Is this property listed in the National Register?

Yes X Name of Listing Chevy Chase Historic District No _____

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES

CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7 Page 1

Inventory No. M-35-105

name of property

Montgomery County, MD

county and state

=====

Built in 1912, this distinguished residence is an early and outstanding example of the Renaissance Revival style in Section 4 and it retains a high degree of architectural integrity. Heralded in advance by an article in the Washington, DC *Evening Star*, the house was designed by Macneil and Macneil architects.¹ The construction cost was estimated at \$10,000.

The house was among the first to be built on Meadow Lane, which was planned as a curvilinear tree-lined parkway following the route of a stream bed. Because of its configuration, Meadow Lane is the street that perhaps best exemplifies the influence of Frederick Law Olmsted on the over-all layout of Section 4, which generally follows the natural contours of the terrain.

Constructed of brick, the two-story three-bay house exhibits many of the classic features of the Renaissance Revival style. It is symmetrically composed, with full-length French doors at the first story and rounded arches above. Windows at the second story are 9/1 sash arranged in a symmetrical pattern complementary to the first level. The recessed entry porch is supported by double classical columns.

The low-pitched hipped roof, originally covered with slate, was replaced with asphalt c1998. An end wall porch with balustrade roof at the south facade was enclosed in 1936.

The house remains at its original location, described as Parcel 427, consisting of 12,495 square feet of land.

¹Washington DC *Evening Star*, July 27, 1912, part 2, page 3.

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties
(Name of Property)
Montgomery County, Maryland

Inventory No. M-35-105
Page 2

=====

6. Function or Use

=====

Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: Residential Sub: _____

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: Residential Sub: _____

=====

7. Description

=====

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

foundation _____
roof _____
walls _____
other _____

Narrative Description (Describe the historic and current condition of the property.)

See Continuation Sheet No. 7-1

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 8 Page 1

Inventory No. M-35-105

name of property
Montgomery County, MD
county and state

=====

The Hartwell-Laird House was built in 1912 for Charles and Sarah Hartwell and their daughter and son-in-law, Celeste and Wilbur Laird. An article about the proposed new house in the Washington DC *Evening Star* states that the house was to be constructed on a lot with 120 feet of frontage on Meadow Lane costing pabout \$4,000." Construction was expected to be completed by December 1, 1912.² The house location is shown on maps by 1917.³

The Hartwell family was listed at this address in a 1915 directory. The 1920 census shows residents of the house as Charles Hartwell, 62, Sarah Hartwell, 60, and Celeste Laird, 38, as well as a boarder. Charles Hartwell was a proofreader with the U.S. Printing Office.⁴

The house remained in the Hartwell-Laird family until about 1927, when it was purchased by Albert E. James, a lawyer, and his wife Ida Elaine. When it was advertised for sale in 1926, the house was described as having five bedrooms, two tiled baths, and two porches, situated on a pbeautifully developedp lot in a pperfect environment.p⁵

²ibid.

³1917 U.S.G.S. map; 1927 Sanborn.

⁴1915 Caldwell Directory; 1920 U.S. Census.

⁵Polk Directory, 1927-28; *Evening Star*, June 5, 1926.

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties
(Name of Property)
Montgomery County, Maryland

Inventory No. M-35-105
Page 4

=====
Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)

Period of Significance _____

Significant Dates 1912

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

Cultural Affiliation _____

Architect/Builder _____

Narrative Statement of Significance (Explain the significance of the property.)

See Continuation Sheet No. 8-1

9. Major Bibliographical References

(Cite the books, articles, legal records, and other sources used in preparing this form.)

Primary Sources:

Census, U. S. 1910 and 1920.

Directories:

Boyd, *Washington City Directory*, 1900, 1905, 1912, 1913.
Caldwell, S. D. *Directory of Bethesda District* (Bethesda, Md), 1911 and 1915.
Nelson, Justus C. *Nelson's Suburban Directory* (Washington, D.C.), 1912-1913.
Polk, R. L. *Polk's Washington Suburban Directory* (Washington, D.C.) 1927-1928.

Equity Records, Montgomery County Courthouse, Rockville, Maryland.

Fisher, Thos. J. *Chevy Chase for Homes*. Washington, D.C.: Thos. J. Fisher & C., 1916.

Land Records, Montgomery County Courthouse, Rockville, Maryland.
Deeds and Plats.

Maps:

Caldwell, S.D. *Map of Bethesda District*, 1915
Deets and Maddox. *Real Estate Atlas*, 1917.
Fava Naeff. *Real Estate Map of the Metropolitan Branch of the B&O Railroad*, 1890.
Hopkins, G.M. *Northern Virginia and Bethesda*, 1894.
Klingé. *Real Estate Atlas*, 1931 and 1941.
Maryland Geological Survey Map. *Bethesda & Vicinity*, 1910.
Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps. 1916, 1927, 1927-1959.

Proctor, John Clagett. *Washington, Past and Present: A History. Including Biographical Sketches of Prominent Citizens*. New York: Lewis Publishing Company, 1930.

Prominent Personages of the Nation's Capital. Washington, D.C.: The Washington Times Co, 1924.

Who's Who in the Nation's Capital. Washington: W.W. Publishing Company. 1923-24.

Secondary Sources:

The American Institute of Architects, *A Centennial History of the Washington Chapter, 1887-1987*. Washington, D.C.: The

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Inventory No. M-35-105

name of property
Montgomery County, MD
county and state

=====

HISTORIC CONTEXT:

Geographic Organization: Piedmont

Chronological/Development Period (s):
Industrial/Urban Dominance 1870-1930

Prehistoric/Historic Period Theme (s):
Architecture and Community Planning

RESOURCE TYPE(S)

Category: Individual

Historic Environment: Suburban

Historic Function (s): Residential

Known Design Source:

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties
(Name of Property)
Montgomery County, Maryland

Inventory No. M-35-105
Page 7

=====

10. Geographical Data

=====

Acreage of Property 12,495 sq ft

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

Parcel 427

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

=====

11. Form Prepared By

=====

name/title Clare Lise Cavicchi, Historic Preservation Planner
organization M-NCPPC date 10-1999
street & number 8787 Georgia Avenue telephone 301/563-3402
city or town Silver Spring state MD zip code 20910

=====

12. Property Owner

=====

name Robert L. Dow, et. al.
street & number 7400 Meadow Lane telephone _____
city or town Chevy Chase state MD zip code 20815

=====

Washington Architectural Foundation Press.

George, Mary Roselle. "Developer Influence in the Suburbanization of Washington, D.C.: Francis G. Newlands and Chevy Chase." M.A. Thesis, University of Maryland, 1989.

Gowans, Alan. *The Comfortable House: North American Suburban Architecture, 1890-1930.* Cambridge, Mass: MIT Press, 1986.

Hiebert, Ray Eldon, and Richard K. MacMaster. *A Grateful Remembrance: The Story of Montgomery County, Maryland.* Rockville, Md: Montgomery County Government and Montgomery County Historical Society, 1976.

Lampl, Elizabeth Jo. and Kimberly Prothro Williams. *Chevy Chase: A Home Suburb for the Nation's Capital,* Crownsville, MD: Maryland Historical Trust Press, 1998.

Linehan, John. Editor. *The Town of Chevy Chase: Past and Present,* Montgomery County, MD: The Town of Chevy Chase, 1990.

Offutt, William. *Bethesda: A Social History of the Area Through World War II.* Bethesda, Md: The Innovation Game, 1995.

Smith, Kathryn Schneitder. Editor. *Washington at Home: An Illustrated History of Neighborhoods in the Nation's Capital.* Northridge, California: Windsor Publications, Inc., 1988

Wright, Gwen; William B. Bushong; and Clare Lise Cavicchi; "Chevy Chase, Maryland, Survey District: Survey Report: Phase Two," Montgomery County Historic Preservation Commission, June 1997.

As a valuable improvement to new under way adjacent to the corner of 10th and 12 streets northwest, where the tracks of the city are being laid, is a building several lots of property for use as a school. The building is now under way. All of the old buildings in the lot are now being demolished and the new building will be started as soon as the foundations can be prepared. The building will be a two-story structure. The land was purchased by the city in 1901, and the building was started in 1902. It is now about four months ago, at a cost of approximately \$10,000, but because of existing lower prices it could not be secured until this month.

MANY SALES IN JULY.

Morgan Bros. Report Series of Recent Transactions.

Members of the firm of Morgan Brothers, real estate brokers, have stated that sales for the first half of July amounted to \$28,000. Included in these transactions consummated were sales of 100 lots in Castle Heights, which were sold for \$150,000 and two houses at 1314-1316 11th street northwest, which were sold for \$1,500 for \$5,000. A bungalow at 14th and 5th street was sold for \$1,000. Bartello and a house at 102 Richmond street northwest for Miss M. Jacobs, the consideration in the latter transaction being \$1,000.

Sales of Houses Reported.

Among the properties sold this week through the real estate office of J. Lee Kohl were the two houses at 129-131 Grover street. Robinson Diller was the purchaser, and the consideration mentioned was \$1,000. This house cost for \$1,500.

Another sale negotiated by Mr. Kohl involved the purchase of 1000 Hedges street northwest, which was purchased by John J. Daly from Miss Hargraves. The price was \$1,000.

Will Exterminate Mosquitoes.

The Illinois Central railroad has announced that it intends undertaking work of exterminating the mosquito in pools adjacent to its lines by stocking stagnant pools with the minnows of the goldfish. The idea was conceived by the chief surgeon of the road, and is said to be the first experiment of its kind ever made. All minnows eat the larvae of the mosquito, but no minnow except that of the goldfish is able to survive in stagnant water. It is believed that by stocking all of the pools along the lines with these minnows it will be possible in a very short time to do away entirely with the mosquito and other disease-carrying mosquitoes. The mosquito is one of the chief causes of malaria and typhoid fever. In cleaning up the breeding places it is hoped that both diseases gradually will be stamped out. All of the states along the line of the Illinois Central will be affected by the experiment, but those states lying south of the Ohio river will receive the greatest benefit, there being a great deal of swamp land in those states.

Wyoming Town Has Woman Mayor.

"You're truly, Susan Wissler, mayor of Dayton." Such is the businesslike signature of the new mayor of a little town in northern Wyoming, which a few weeks ago chose a keen-eyed, pleasant featured woman to preside over its affairs. Though Wyoming is the first equal suffrage state, no woman has ever before been elected mayor within its boundaries. Indeed, Mrs. Wissler is the second woman in the United States to be mayor. Himmewell Kan., having chosen a woman for that post a year or two ago. But the Himmewell mayor was chosen more as a jest than in earnest, it is said, and she was opposed by the town council, whereas Mrs. Wissler was chosen by a majority that testified to her business ability which secured the honor for her.

TO BUILD RESIDENCE IN CHEVY CHASE, MD.

Mrs. Hartwell and Mr. Laird Will Have House on Meadow Lane.

Construction work soon will be started on the new residence for Mrs. Charles Hartwell and her son-in-law and daughter, Mr. and Mrs. Wilber G. Laird, on Meadow Lane, Chevy Chase, Md. Plans for the structure were prepared by Macnell and Macnell, architects, and John Simpson's Sons Company has the contract for the structural work. The house will cost approximately \$10,000, and it will be placed on a lot which Mrs. Hartwell and Mr. Laird purchased at a cost of about \$4,000. It will be finished and ready for occupancy about December 1. The lot has a frontage of 120 feet on Meadow Lane and it is located in what is known as section 4, Chevy Chase.

The house will be of bungalow type, two stories in height, with a hall through the center. It will contain eight rooms and two baths, the arrangement contemplating a living room, library, dining room and kitchen on the first floor and four sleeping chambers on the second floor. The exterior finish will be of stucco and the roof will be of Spanish tile.

Fragile Kids.

From Life.
There is a high rate of infant mortality among children of the imagination.

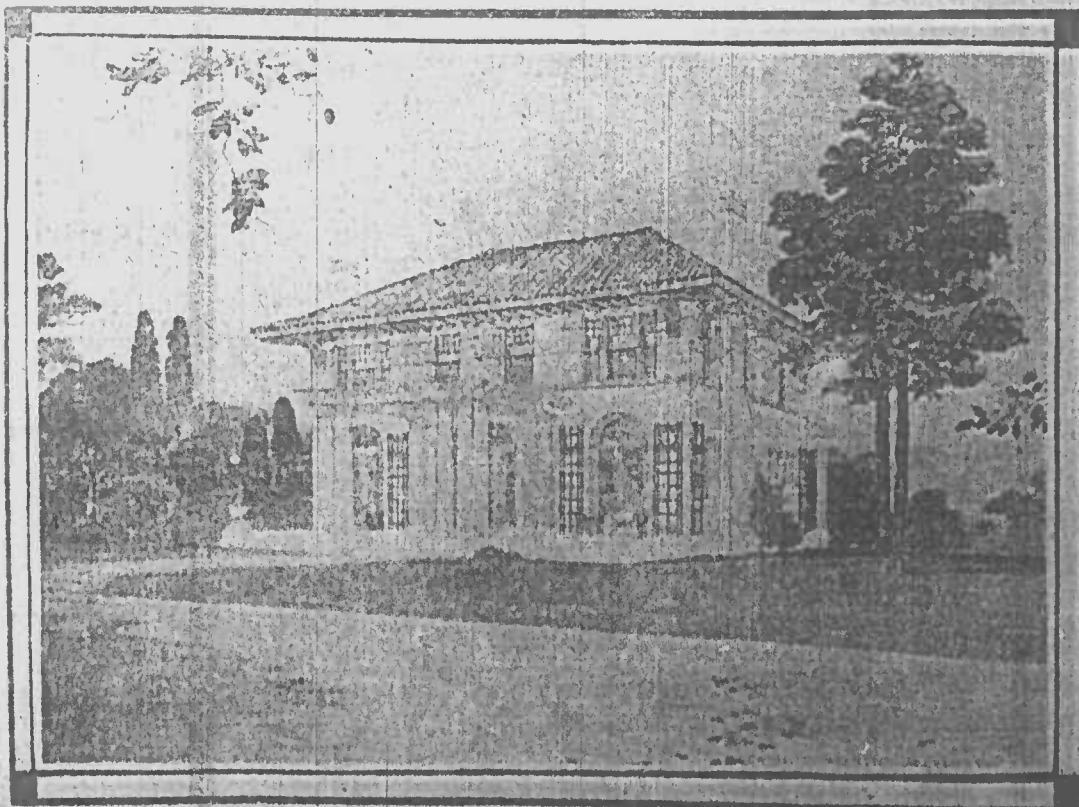
SAFE METHOD SOUGHT IN RAILWAY OPERATION

Description Given of Work of Organization on Chicago and Northwestern Line.

Safety in railway operation is being advanced by concerted effort toward the end, according to the statement in a presidential address of H. T. Bentley before the recent convention of the American Railway Master Mechanics' Association. Mr. Bentley said in part:

"About eighteen months ago an organization was started on the Chicago and Northwestern, in a very humble way, the purpose of trying to reduce the number of accidents that were occurring daily on our tracks in the movement of trains and in our shops and roundhouses. The plan worked out so well under the forceful leadership of the general agent and with the assistance of members of the central safety committee and the local committees on the various divisions, and the results were so gratifying, and the scheme was quickly taken up by all the large roads in the country. At one time it was thought that accidents were inevitable, but when safety committees got into action, it was remarkable how quickly this idea changed, and a reduction in sixteen months is the latest date for which figures are available of 107 persons killed and 3,000 persons injured on the Chicago and Northwestern shows what can be done when it makes up their minds that it is better to cause a delay than to cause an accident. The fact that it is possible to make a railway commission of Indiana to all the roads in that state to go and likewise. Before long the federal government will probably step in and for some action that will help this cause along; if it would only pass a trespass law and enforce it, a large number of the 3,000 men, women and children who are being killed each year because of the dangerous track-walking habit would be saved."

NEW HOUSE PLANNED



Residence to be built for Mrs. Charles Hartwell and her son-in-law, Wilber G. Laird, on Meadow Lane, Chevy Chase.

7400 MEADOW

LOCATES GARDEN OF EDEN.

British Official Declares Adam and Eve Lived on Euphrates River.

The location of the Garden of Eden is claimed by Sir William Willcocks, a visitor on public works of Cairo, Egypt, to have been on the upper Euphrates river, between Anah and Hit. It is part of the proposed irrigation scheme the valleys of the Tigris and Euphrates rivers to restore the reputed garden of Adam and Eve to its original luxuriance. Sir William stated at a recent meeting of the Royal Geographical Society in London that when the proposed irrigation works were completed the Euphrates-Tigris delta region, this ancient seat of civilization, would become as prosperous as the delta of the Nile in Egypt. Sir William has discovered a depression 500 square miles in extent, which he believes can be used as a reservoir basin in controlling the Euphrates, and which he thinks was used for that purpose by the ancients. His theory is that great floods changed the course of the river and destroyed the ancient irrigation works, and for that century the region has been a desert.

City to Raise Guinea Pigs.

The first step in the direction of municipal ownership will be taken by St. Louis, Mo., in a few days, when it will establish a guinea pig and rabbit farm on the grounds of the City Insane. Under the present plan the entire output of the farm will be utilized by the city, and there is hardly a possibility of entering the market with the meat. The medical institutions of the city in many instances in experiments, and it is believed the cost of raising them is less than the cost of purchasing. Dr. Cleveland H. Smith, hospital commissioner, will give the plan a trial.

M. 35-105
PT 2 P. 3
July 27 1912
Evening Star

M: 35-105





M 35-105

HARTWELL - LAIRD HOUSE

7400 MEADOW LANE

TOWN OF CHINY CHAPE

MICHELE NARUCHI

10-1999